

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION  
DATED JUNE 13, 2007

Appln. No. 10/792,353

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July 23, 2007

**REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action dated June 13, 2007. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 17-44 are pending. Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, that Claims 30-37 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of their base claims and any intervening claims upon which they depend. Claims 17 and 23-27 are rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 3,597,187 to Trudeau in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,832,780 to Gallienne and U.S. Patent No. 4,793,847 to Kawachi et al. Claims 18-22 and 38-40 are rejected as obvious over Trudeau, Gallienne and Kawachi et al and further in view of Patent Publication EP 0 133 775 to Fenton. Claims 41-43 are rejected as obvious over Trudeau, Gallienne and Fenton and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,824,129 to Struckmeier et al. Claims 44 and 45 are rejected as obvious over Trudeau, Gallienne, Fenton, Struckmeier et al and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,756,736 to Fenton.

Claim Amendments

Applicants have amended the claims consistent with those deemed allowable by the Examiner to place the application in condition for allowance. To that end, applicant has canceled, without prejudice, Claims 17-21, 23 and 30-34. Applicants have added new independent Claims 46-50 which are drawn to combinations of subject matter from canceled claims according to the following correspondence table:

<u>New Claim</u>	<u>Old Claims</u>
46	17, 18, 30
47	17, 19, 31
48	17, 19, 20, 32
49	17, 19, 21, 33
50	17, 18, 23, 34

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Applicants have amended the dependency of the remaining independent claims for consistency with the new independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Applicants contend that the claim amendments place the application in condition for allowance and request that it therefore be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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